

Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 10, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,246, Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 13, line 3, page 14, line 22, page 17, lines 9 and 37 and page 22, line 1 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 8-11 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the support members of the modules are configured to communicate the printing fluid with one another. Support for this amendment can be found at page 9, line 22-page 11, line 23 of the present specification; and dependent claims 2-7 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1 and 3-7 over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/760,246, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,246 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on a fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a pagewidth printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

Easy connection and operation of the multiple modules is provided by configuring the fluid channel members of the modules to communicate printing fluid with each other across the printhead assembly. By providing the modules in this way, scalability of the printhead assembly is provided without the need to redesign the printing fluid distribution arrangement (see page 9, line 22-page 11, line 23 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length (see col. 2, lines 2-34 of Silverbrook).

Thus, Silverbrook does not disclose an arrangement in which the modules have more than one printhead chip and support members which enable communication of ink between the modules. Furthermore, the disclosure of Silverbrook does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly, because Silverbrook specifically teaches that the modularity is provided by the plugging in of the modules into the reservoir molding.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 7 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of Lu et al. (US 2003/0007042), for at least the following reasons.

Lu merely discloses a reciprocating printhead 2,10 (see paragraphs [0001]-[0003] and [0013] of Lu), not a pagewidth, modular printhead assembly.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Lu.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,
Applicants:



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